25th January 1928]

Financial aspects of the scheme for the improvements of the third reach of the Pandavayar.

*1399 Q.—Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have called on the Chief Engineer to report on the financial aspects of the scheme for the improvements of the third reach of the Pandavayar in consultation with the Collector of Tanjore through the Board of Revenue; and

(b) if so, what the Government regard as the financial aspects of this particular scheme?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The cost compared with the return whether in the shape of increased revenue savings of remissions, or indirect benefits which will accrue if the scheme is executed.

Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar:—"With reference to the answer to clause (b) may I ask the hon. the Law Member whether the Government considers that in the case of the improvement of the existing wet lands the revenue aspect of the matter is the only thing to be taken into consideration?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"It is one of the things taken into consideration."

Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether it is not a fact that where irrigation is defective the Government do not improve it without looking into the revenue aspect of it?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"It will either come in under savings of remission or indirect benefits."

Maintenance of irrigation works in Tanjore, Godavari and Kistna.

*1400 Q.—Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the average amount per acre spent for the maintenance of irrigation works in Tanjore; and

(b) what is the rate for the same in the Godavari and Kistna deltas?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to column 12 of Statement E II in Appendix I to the annual irrigation administration reports.

Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar:—"With reference to the same matter, may I ask whether, if the money spent annually on the irrigation works in the Tanjore district is less than that spent in the other districts, the Government would look into the matter?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"In the improvement of irrigation works, the revenue aspect is not the predominant or primary consideration. The Government cannot pledge themselves to allocate the amounts received in each district to that district. If that were done, many of the poorer districts of the presidency would be hard hit."